

## NCS CHAIR'S REPORT FOR AGM 2025

This was our centenary year: 100 years since Nailsea Choral Society was first founded, and we had planned to celebrate it well. This we truly did.

Our concerts at both Christmas (Messiah) and in the summer, (Elgar's Dream of Gerontius) were very well attended- a sellout at the Methodist church for Messiah, and 450 at Bristol Cathedral for Gerontius, and were of our highest singing standard. We sang our best ever Messiah accompanied by the baroque orchestra 'Chivari Agreeable' and our audience were thrilled.

In the Dream of Gerontius Tom Williams, our MD, led us to even greater singing heights than we had ever done before, and though it was tough, it was extremely rewarding. He also conducted the whole massive work, orchestra, choir and semi-chorus with total dedication and great musicality.

Singing the Dream of Gerontius was indeed our biggest challenge. The organisation required to pull this off was immense. We began fundraising two years before and created a steering group to lead us through to performance. We held a workshop to attract singers from Bristol choirs and invited Chew Valley Choral to join us. Thus, we required a bigger rehearsal venue and the Methodist church made itself available. Additionally, some weeks we had split rehearsals to learn the very difficult parts with Sopros and Altos at Christ Church with Tom and Tenors and basses at the Methodist church with Harry Kirby (assistant conductor). Michael Butterfield helped us out with additional accompanying and in the later stages we were accompanied by Dr David Bednall, MD for Chew Valley Choral. Bristol Symphony orchestra accompanied us for the actual concert and did so with outstanding competence and flair.

There are an enormous number of thanks due to all those involved in the Centenary effort. Antony Evans, Cynthia Dobson, Elaine Wellingham and Sarah Harris were vital parts of the initial steering committee that planned the whole enterprise, and the Elgar concert could not have happened without their expertise and dedication. Members as a whole rose to the challenge of raising the money, giving dedicated additional amounts over and above their subscriptions to boost the funds. They supported all the additional fundraising events, joining in an 8-hour Singathon Challenge, baking a vast array of cakes for the Come and Sing workshop and ensuring all their family and friends had tickets to everything.

All the committee have been challenged to step up a notch this year and I am immensely grateful to all of them for their industry and support. We could not have achieved such a successful year without such a willing and competent team. Especial mention must be made to our treasurer Carew Reynell who managed the finances of such a large venture with wisdom and prudence so that we have ended the year well in balance. Thanks also go to our Vice President Chris Jennings, who is always so supportive.

On a more somber note, our singing fraternity is not getting any younger and this year 4 of our members have died. Eira Barker, Marion Every, Rosemary Peill and David Walker. All had been long standing members and will be much missed.

As I write we are poised to enjoy our final celebration of this centenary year, a gala dinner where a display of NCS memorabilia over the last 100 years will be on show. Later in the year Antony Evans' history '100 years of NCS' will be published and available to purchase as a tangible reminder of all that NCS has been.

We truly have celebrated well, and I have been proud to chair the society through this period.

Pam Salisbury 2025

**Nailsea Choral Society**  
**Annual Accounts for 2024/25**

Revenue Account		2024/25 (£)	2023/24 (£)
Concerts	Messiah	4101	521
	Gerontius	5858	
Core activities		-5461	-5411
Overheads		-218	-30
Net spending		4280	-4920
Transfer from Centenary Fund		-9959	13234
Increase in General Reserve		5679	-482

More details of income and expenditure are given in the following pages.

Balance Sheet		2024/25 (£)	2023/24 (£)
Opening balance	General	11420	11902
	Centenary Fund	15060	1826
Net spending		-4280	-482
Closing balance	General	17099	11420
	Centenary Fund	5101	15060
Represented by	Bank (current a/c)	6673	7953
	Bank (deposit a/c)	17541	19099
	Sumup	0	186
	Creditors/debtors	-2013	-758

Concerts	Messiah (£)	Gerontius (£)
Music Director	350	950
Soloists	1300	4300
Orchestra	4880	5000
Semi-chorus		1288
Hall	385	1400
Extra rehearsal costs		1840
Publicity and programme	307	780
CFIM support		440
PRS/other	200	444
Tickets	-3343	-8704
Refreshments (net)	22	-428
Workshop (net)		-267
Additional singers (incl. gift aid)		-1065
Donations		-120
<b>Total</b>	<b>4101</b>	<b>5858</b>

Core activities	2024/25 (£)	2023/24 (£)
MD/deputy/accompanist	4987	5113
Hall	1697	1082
Music/other	122	-224
Subscriptions	-10577	-9657
Gift aid	-1690	-1725
<b>Total</b>	<b>-5461</b>	<b>-5411</b>

The number of subscribing members was 88 (84 in the previous year).

Overheads	2024/25 (£)	2023/24 (£)
Making Music/insurance	280	181
Bank fees	68	72
Folders	-40	104
Website	54	36

Overheads	2024/25 (£)	2023/24 (£)
Sponsorship (Nailsea Town Council)	-100	-100
Interest earned	-442	-294
Centenary book	24	
Other	-62	-29
<b>Total</b>	<b>-218</b>	<b>-30</b>

## **Nailsea Choral Society**

### **Independent Examiner's report on the accounts for 2024/25**

- I believe that I meet the Charity Commission requirements as regards an independent examination.
- I have no cause to believe that adequate accounting records have not been kept nor that the financial statements presented do not accord with those records.
- Based on my understanding of the accounts, I believe that the Treasurer's report provides a reasonable summary of the financial issues of the past financial year and the Society's financial position going forward.
- I do not believe that the preparation and/or submission of these accounts to the Charity Commission, in their required format, is a necessary precursor to the acceptance of the financial report and statements at the AGM.

Tim Holman

23/09/25